

BANKING, RAILWAY, & SHIPPING STATISTICS, IRELAND.

[JUNE, 1898.]

STATISTICS OF DEPOSITS AND CASH BALANCES IN JOINT STOCK BANKS; DEPOSITS IN POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS AND TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS; AMOUNT OF THE GOVERNMENT FUNDS, INDIA STOCKS, AND GUARANTEED LAND STOCK; AND BANK NOTE CIRCULATION IN IRELAND, JUNE, 1898; WEEKLY TRAFFIC RECEIPTS OF IRISH RAILWAYS FOR THE FIRST TWENTY-SIX WEEKS OF THE YEARS 1897-98; AND THE AGGREGATE RECEIPTS FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF EACH OF THE YEARS 1889-98; ALSO TONNAGE OF VESSELS ENTERED AND CLEARED IN THE PORTS OF IRELAND DURING THE YEARS 1887-97.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



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DUBLIN CASTLE,

2nd August, 1898.

SIR,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ulto., forwarding, for submission to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, the Banking, Railway, and Shipping Statistics, Ireland (June, 1898).

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

D. HARREL

The Registrar-General,

Charlemont House,

Rutland-square.

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BANKING, RAILWAY, AND SHIPPING
STATISTICS, IRELAND
(JUNE, 1898).

10

HIS EXCELLENCY
GEORGE HENRY, EARL CADOGAN, K.G.,
Sec., Sec., &c.,
LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I have the honour to submit to your Excellency the following Tables and remarks relative to Banking and to the amount of the Government Funds, India Stocks, and Guaranteed Land Stock upon which dividends are payable at the Bank of Ireland, together with information concerning the weekly traffic receipts of the Irish Railways during the half year ended 30th June, 1898; and an abstract of the principal railway statistics of Ireland for the first half of each of the ten years 1889-98; also Tables with reference to the tonnage of Vessels entered and cleared at each of the Irish Ports. The Tables on these subjects are in continuation of those previously issued by this Department.

The information comprised in the first series of Tables consists of the total of the deposits and cash balances in the Joint Stock Banks of Ireland on the 30th of June, 1898, and on the corresponding date in each preceding year since the year 1878 inclusive, compiled from confidential returns furnished by the authorities of the various banks

with their usual courtesy ; the estimated balance of deposits remaining in Post Office and Trustee Savings Banks in Ireland on the 30th of June of each year since the year 1878 inclusive, derived from official sources ; together with the total amount on 30th June (in each year since 1878) of Government Funds, India Stocks, and Guaranteed Land Stock,* on which dividends are payable at the Bank of Ireland, with the amount of each description of Stock on 30th June, 1898, kindly supplied by the Governor of the Bank ; and the average bank note circulation of the six banks of issue in Ireland in the month of June since 1888, compiled from the *Dublin Gazette*. Tables are also inserted affording half-yearly comparisons for the ten years 1888-97 and the first half of this year under each of the heads referred to above.

The Tables comprising the returns of the weekly traffic receipts of the Irish Railways have been compiled from data for which I am indebted to the authorities of the various Railway Companies.

Returns with reference to the tonnage of Ships entered and cleared at Irish Ports have been kindly furnished by the Board of Customs, and were specially prepared for the purposes of this Report by the Statistical Department of that Board.

1. *Deposits and Cash Balances in Joint Stock Banks.*

The deposits and cash balances in Joint Stock Banks in the middle of the year which, comparing June with June, had gradually increased from £29,223,000 in June, 1886, to £38,758,000 in the middle of 1896, but showed a slight decline from the latter amount in June, 1897, amounted on the 30th June last to £38,973,000,† being

* See note (*) on page 15.

† This amount is exclusive of £2,324,642 Government and other Public Accounts in the Bank of Ireland.

the highest amount (for June) of which there is record, and £409,000 in excess of that for June, 1897.

TABLE I.—Showing Deposits and Cash Balances in Joint Stock Banks; compiled from Returns furnished by the several Joint Stock Banks in Ireland.*

DATE.	Amount.	Yearly Increase.	Yearly Decrease.
	£	£	£
1878, 30th June, .	31,745,000	—	1,001,000
1879, " .	30,191,000	—	1,554,000
1880, " .	29,350,000	—	841,000
1881, " .	28,280,000	—	1,061,000
1882, " .	30,667,000	2,378,000	—
1883, " .	31,725,000	1,058,000	—
1884, " .	30,072,000	—	1,653,000
1885, " .	29,240,000	—	832,000
1886, " .	29,223,000	—	17,000
1887, " .	29,339,000	116,000	—
1888, " .	30,310,000	971,000	—
1889, " .	31,205,000	895,000	—
1890, " .	33,061,000	1,856,000	—
1891, " .	33,700,000	639,000	—
1892, " .	34,565,000	865,000	—
1893, " .	34,637,000	72,000	—
1894, " .	35,430,000	793,000	—
1895, " .	37,491,000	2,061,000	—
1896, " .	38,758,000	1,267,000	—
1897, " .	38,564,000	—	194,000
1898, " .	38,973,000	409,000	—

* The names and the dates of foundation of the Banks, the combined statistics of which are included in Tables I. and I. (A) are as follows:—

Name.	Estab-lished.	Name.	Estab-lished.
Bank of Ireland, . . .	1783.	National Bank, . . .	1835.
Northern Banking Company, .	1824.	Ulster Bank, . . .	1836.
Hibernian Bank, . . .	1825.	Royal Bank of Ireland, .	1836.
Provincial Bank of Ireland, .	1825.	Munster & Leinster Bank, .	1885.
Belfast Banking Company, .	1827.		

TABLE I. (A), made out by half years, shows the fluctuations which have taken place half yearly during the past ten years. The amount of deposits and Cash Balances on the 30th June last is under that for the month of December in any of the last three years, but it is higher than the amount at the close of any other half-year in the period covered by the Table, and much over the average. It will be observed that in each of the six years 1893-8 the amount for June was under that for the preceding December.

TABLE I. (A)—Showing amount of Deposits and Cash Balances in Joint Stock Banks, at the undermentioned dates, compiled from Returns furnished by the several Joint Stock Banks in Ireland.

DATE.	Amount.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
1888, 30th June, .	30,310,000	530,000	-
„ 31st December,	30,974,000	664,000	-
1889, 30th June, .	31,205,000	226,000	-
„ 31st December,	32,968,000	1,763,000	-
1890, 30th June, .	33,061,000	93,000	-
„ 31st December,	33,325,000	264,000	-
1891, 30th June, .	33,700,000	375,000	-
„ 31st December,	34,532,000	832,000	-
1892, 30th June, .	34,565,000	33,000	-
„ 31st December,	35,375,000	810,000	-
1893, 30th June, .	34,637,000	-	738,000
„ 31st December,	35,352,000	1,215,000	-
1894, 30th June, .	35,430,000	-	432,000
„ 31st December,	37,607,000	2,177,000	-
1895, 30th June, .	37,491,000	-	116,000
„ 31st December,	39,008,000	1,517,000	-
1896, 30th June, .	38,758,000	-	250,000
„ 31st December,	39,238,000	480,000	-
1897, 30th June, .	38,564,000	-	674,000
„ 31st December,	39,300,000	736,000	-
1898, 30th June, .	38,973,000	-	327,000

2. Savings Banks.

The balances of deposits in Savings Banks consist of two groups—those in the Post Office Savings Banks, which are set out in Table II. and Table II. (A), and those in Trustee Savings Banks, shown in Table III. and Table III. (A).

At the end of June of this year, the estimated amount in the Post Office Savings Banks in Ireland stood at £6,957,000, as compared with £6,443,000, for the corresponding period of 1897, showing an increase of £514,000, following an increase of £524,000 in the twelve months ending with June, 1897.

TABLE II.—Showing Estimated Balances, at the undermentioned dates, in Post Office Savings Banks in Ireland; compiled from Returns furnished by the Controller, Post Office Savings Bank Department.

DATE.	Amount.	Yearly Increase.	Yearly Decrease.
	£	£	£
1878, 30th June,	1,296,000	85,000	—
1879, "	1,374,000	78,000	—
1880, "	1,481,000	107,000	—
1881, "	1,645,000	164,000	—
1882, "	1,832,000	187,000	—
1883, "	2,002,000	170,000	—
1884, "	2,150,000	148,000	—
1885, "	2,325,000	175,000	—
1886, "	2,592,000	267,000	—
1887, "	2,802,000	210,000	—
1888, "	3,128,000	326,000	—
1889, "	3,372,000	244,000	—
1890, "	3,585,000	213,000	—
1891, "	3,878,000	293,000	—
1892, "	4,069,000	191,000	—
1893, "	4,155,000	86,000	—
1894, "	4,687,000	532,000	—
1895, "	5,337,000	650,000	—
1896, "	5,919,000	582,000	—
1897, "	6,443,000	524,000	—
1898, "	6,957,000	514,000	—

Table II. (A) shows by half years, for the past ten years, the estimated balances in the Post Office Savings Banks. It will be observed that the estimated balance (£6,957,000) on the 30th June last shows an increase of £251,000 as compared with the estimated amount (£6,706,000) at the close of the year 1897. This

increase is less than that for the first half of any of the four years 1894-7, but is much higher than the increase in the first six months of any year prior to 1894.

TABLE II. (A)—Showing Estimated Balance, at the undermentioned dates, in Post Office Savings Banks in Ireland; compiled from Returns furnished by the Controller, Post Office Savings Bank Department.

DATE.	Amount.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
1888, 30th June, . . .	3,128,000	196,000	—
„ 31st December, . .	3,239,000	111,000	—
1889, 30th June, . . .	3,372,000	133,000	—
„ 31st December, . .	3,462,000	90,000	—
1890, 30th June, . . .	3,585,000	123,000	—
„ 31st December, . .	3,723,000	138,000	—
1891, 30th June, . . .	3,878,000	155,000	—
„ 31st December, . .	3,966,000	88,000	—
1892, 30th June, . . .	4,069,000	103,000	—
„ 31st December, . .	4,204,000	135,000	—
1893, 30th June, . . .	4,155,000	—	49,000
„ 31st December, . .	4,343,000	188,000	—
1894, 30th June, . . .	4,687,000	344,000	—
„ 31st December, . .	4,977,000	290,000	—
1895, 30th June, . . .	5,337,000	360,000	—
„ 31st December, . .	5,603,000	266,000	—
1896, 30th June, . . .	5,919,000	316,000	—
„ 31st December, . .	6,153,000	234,000	—
1897, 30th June, . . .	6,443,000	290,000	—
„ 31st December, . .	6,706,000	263,000	—
1898, 30th June, . . .	6,957,000	251,000	—

Table III. shows the amount of deposits on the 30th June, 1878-98, in Trustee Savings Banks, from which it appears that there was an increase of £38,000 in June, 1898, as compared with the amount on the corresponding

date, 1897, which amount was the highest for June in any of the twenty years 1878-97. This increase brings the amount in these Banks up to £2,249,000, which is £398,000 above the amount (£1,856,000) for June, 1893, which was the lowest balance for June in any of the twenty-one years covered by the Table.

TABLE III.—Showing the Balances due to Trustees of Savings Banks in Ireland by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, at the undermentioned dates; compiled from Returns furnished by the Comptroller-General, National Debt Office, London.

DATE.	Amount.	Yearly Increase.	Yearly Decrease.
	£	£	£
1878, 30th June,	2,208,000	—	17,000
1879, "	2,116,000	—	92,000
1880, "	2,063,000	—	53,000
1881, "	1,980,000	—	83,000
1882, "	2,038,000	58,000	—
1883, "	2,064,000	26,000	—
1884, "	2,072,000	8,000	—
1885, "	2,022,000	—	50,000
1886, "	1,994,000	—	28,000
1887, "	2,030,000	36,000	—
1888, "	2,012,000	—	18,000
1889, "	2,028,000	16,000	—
1890, "	2,035,000	7,000	—
1891, "	1,972,000	—	63,000
1892, "	1,958,000	—	14,000
1893, "	1,856,000	—	102,000
1894, "	1,940,000	84,000	—
1895, "	2,034,000	94,000	—
1896, "	2,128,000	94,000	—
1897, "	2,211,000	83,000	—
1898, "	2,249,000	38,000	—

Table III. (A) gives information by half-years for the Trustee Savings Banks, and shows that there was an increase of £13,000 in June, 1898, as compared with December, 1897, the balance for which period was £25,000 over that for June, 1897. It will be observed that in each of the last ten half-yearly periods there was an increase as compared with the balance for the half-year immediately preceding.

TABLE III. (A)—Showing the Balances due to Trustees of Savings Banks in Ireland by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, at the undermentioned dates; compiled from Returns furnished by the Comptroller-General, National Debt Office, London.

DATE.	Amount.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
1888, 30th June, .	2,012,000	—	31,000
„ 31st December, .	2,029,000	17,000	—
1889, 30th June, .	2,028,000	—	1,000
„ 31st December, .	2,042,000	14,000	—
1890, 30th June, .	2,035,000	—	7,000
„ 31st December, .	1,973,000	—	62,000
1891, 30th June, .	1,972,000	—	1,000
„ 31st December, .	1,966,000	—	6,000
1892, 30th June, .	1,958,000	—	8,000
„ 31st December, .	1,967,000	9,000	—
1893, 30th June, .	1,856,000	—	111,000
„ 31st December, .	1,876,000	20,000	—
1894, 30th June, .	1,940,000	64,000	—
„ 31st December, .	1,982,000	42,000	—
1895, 30th June, .	2,034,000	52,000	—
„ 31st December, .	2,075,000	41,000	—
1896, 30th June, .	2,128,000	53,000	—
„ 31st December, .	2,166,000	38,000	—
1897, 30th June, .	2,211,000	45,000	—
„ 31st December, .	2,236,000	25,000	—
1898, 30th June, .	2,249,000	13,000	—

In order to show in a combined form the progress of the accumulation of small savings in Banks in Ireland, Tables IV. and IV. (A) have been constructed. Table IV. shows that the balance in the Savings Banks in Ireland in June last amounted to £9,206,000, or £552,000 in excess

of the balance in June, 1897. This increase is less than that for the twelve months ending with June in any of the four years 1894-7, but is 79 per cent. above the highest annual increase in any other of the years covered by the Table.

TABLE IV.—Showing the Totals of the Balances in Post Office and Trustee Savings Banks, given separately in Tables II. and III.

DATE.	Amount.	Yearly Increase.	Yearly Decrease.
	£	£	£
1878, 30th June,	3,504,000	68,000	—
1879, "	3,490,000	—	14,000
1880, "	3,544,000	54,000	—
1881, "	3,625,000	81,000	—
1882, "	3,870,000	245,000	—
1883, "	4,066,000	196,000	—
1884, "	4,222,000	156,000	—
1885, "	4,347,000	125,000	—
1886, "	4,586,000	239,000	—
1887, "	4,832,000	246,000	—
1888, "	5,140,000	308,000	—
1889, "	5,400,000	260,000	—
1890, "	5,620,000	220,000	—
1891, "	5,850,000	230,000	—
1892, "	6,037,000	177,000	—
1893, "	6,011,000	—	16,000
1894, "	6,637,000	616,000	—
1895, "	7,371,000	744,000	—
1896, "	8,047,000	676,000	—
1897, "	8,654,000	607,000	—
1898, "	9,206,000	552,000	—

Table IV. (A) gives the amount of small savings, by half years, for the past ten years. It shows that in the six months ended the 30th June last there was an increase of £264,000 as compared with the amount in Savings Banks at the close of the year 1897, and that this increase followed an increase of £288,000 during the half-year ended the 31st December last, and an increase of £335,000 in the first half of the year 1897.

[TABLE IV. (A.)

TABLE IV. (A)—Showing the Totals of the Balances in Post Office and Trustee Savings Banks, given separately in Tables II. (A) and III. (A).

DATE.	Amount.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
1888, 30th June, .	5,140,000	165,000	—
„ 31st December,	5,268,000	128,000	—
1889, 30th June, .	5,400,000	132,000	—
„ 31st December,	5,504,000	104,000	—
1890, 30th June, .	5,620,000	116,000	—
„ 31st December,	5,696,000	76,000	—
1891, 30th June, .	5,850,000	154,000	—
„ 31st December,	5,932,000	82,000	—
1892, 30th June, .	6,027,000	95,000	—
„ 31st December,	6,171,000	144,000	—
1893, 30th June, .	6,011,000	—	160,000
„ 31st December,	6,219,000	208,000	—
1894, 30th June, .	6,627,000	408,000	—
„ 31st December,	6,959,000	332,000	—
1895, 30th June, .	7,371,000	412,000	—
„ 31st December,	7,678,000	307,000	—
1896, 30th June, .	8,047,000	369,000	—
„ 31st December,	8,319,000	272,000	—
1897, 30th June, .	8,654,000	335,000	—
„ 31st December,	8,942,000	288,000	—
1898, 30th June, .	9,206,000	264,000	—

3. *Government Funds, India Stocks, and Guaranteed Land Stock.**

From Table V. it is seen that in June of this year the amount of Government Funds, India Stocks, and Guaranteed Land Stock on which dividends are payable at the Bank of Ireland was £24,554,000, being an increase of £338,000 as compared with the amount for June, 1897, which was the lowest amount for June in any of the twenty-one years covered by the Table. The increase this year follows a decrease of £560,000 in June of last year as compared with the amount for June, 1896, which was £1,048,000 under that for June, 1895.

TABLE V.—Showing the Amount of the Government Funds, India Stocks, and Guaranteed Land Stock* held in Ireland at the undermentioned dates; compiled from Returns furnished by the Governor of the Bank of Ireland.

DATE.	AMOUNT.	Yearly Increase.	Yearly Decrease
	£	£	£
1878, 30th June,	31,809,000	—	804,000
1879, „	33,037,000	1,228,000	—
1880, „	33,113,000	76,000	—
1881, „	32,430,000	—	674,000
1882, „	31,772,000	—	657,000
1883, „	31,582,000	—	240,000
1884, „	30,859,000	—	673,000
1885, „	30,500,000	41,000	—
1886, „	30,484,000	—	410,000
1887, „	30,779,000	295,000	—
1888, „	28,856,000	—	1,923,000
1889, „	28,210,000†	—	637,000†
1890, „	27,517,000‡	—	702,000‡
1891, „	25,600,000	—	908,000
1892, „	25,042,000	—	567,000
1893, „	23,339,000	—	769,000
1894, „	25,375,000	92,000	—
1895, „	25,824,000	449,000	—
1896, „	24,776,000	—	1,048,000
1897, „	24,216,000	—	560,000
1898, „	24,554,000	338,000	—

The amount of each of the several descriptions of Stock included in the total amount given above for

* Guaranteed Land Stock was created in 1892.

† See note (*) on page 16.

‡ See note (†) on page 16.

June, 1898, is shown, in round numbers, in the following statement :—

2½ per cent. Consols (1903),	£15,634,000
2½ " " Stock (1905),	303,000
2½ " " (1905),	68,000
Local Loans, 3 per cent.,	622,000
India 3½ per cent. Stock,	2,563,000
" 3 " " "	1,333,000
" 2½ " " "	9,000
Guaranteed Land Stock, .	4,022,000
	<u>£34,554,000</u>

Table V. (A), made up by half-years, shows that there has been an increase of £199,000 in June, 1898, as compared with the close of the year 1897, following an increase of £139,000 in the six months July–December, 1897, and a decrease of £270,000 in June, 1897, as compared with December, 1896.

TABLE V. (A)—Showing the Amounts of Government Funds, India Stocks, and Guaranteed Land Stock held in Ireland at the under-mentioned dates; compiled from Returns furnished by the Governor of the Bank of Ireland.

DATE	Amount.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
1888, 30th June, . . .	28,856,000	—	983,000
" 31st December, . . .	28,669,000*	—	137,000*
1889, 30th June, . . .	28,219,000	—	450,000
" 31st December, . . .	27,898,000†	—	321,000†
1890, 30th June, . . .	27,517,000	—	381,000
" 31st December, . . .	26,616,000	—	907,000
1891, 30th June, . . .	26,609,000	—	1,000
" 31st December, . . .	25,784,000	—	825,000
1892, 30th June, . . .	26,042,000	258,000	—
" 31st December, . . .	25,198,000	—	844,000
1893, 30th June, . . .	26,288,000	85,000	—
" 31st December, . . .	24,609,000	—	774,000
1894, 30th June, . . .	25,375,000	866,000	—
" 31st December, . . .	26,000,000	625,000	—
1895, 30th June, . . .	25,824,000	—	176,000
" 31st December, . . .	25,406,000	—	418,000
1896, 30th June, . . .	24,776,000	—	630,000
" 31st December, . . .	24,486,000	—	290,000
1897, 30th June, . . .	24,214,000	—	270,000
" 31st December, . . .	24,355,000	139,000	—
1898, 30th June, . . .	24,554,000	199,000	—

* India 4 per cent. Stock ceased to bear interest on the 4th October, 1888, and was paid off.

† Reduced 3 per cent. Stock and 3 per cent. Consols ceased to bear interest on the 5th July, 1889.

4. *Bank Note Circulation.*

Dealing with the Bank Note circulation in a manner similar to that adopted with regard to the question of deposits and cash balances, it will be seen by Table VI. that there has been a decrease of £118,000 in the circulation as compared with the year 1897, the value having fallen from £5,858,000 in June, 1897, to £5,740,000 in the corresponding period of this year: the latter amount is the lowest for June in any of the eleven years covered by the Table. The amount for June, 1897, was £60,000 under that for June, 1896, which was £330,000 less than the amount for June, 1895.

TABLE VI.—Showing the average Bank Note Circulation of the Six Banks of Issue in Ireland in June of the years 1888–98; compiled from Accounts published by the Registrar of Bank Returns, pursuant to the Act 8 & 9 Vic., cap. 37.*

PERIODS	Amount.	Yearly Increase.	Yearly Decrease.
	£	£	£
1888, June, .	5,758,000	77,000	—
1889, " .	6,515,000	757,000	—
1890, " .	6,634,000	119,000	—
1891, " .	6,165,000	—	469,000
1892, " .	5,965,000	—	200,000
1893, " .	6,088,000	123,000	—
1894, " .	6,007,000	—	81,000
1895, " .	6,248,000	241,000	—
1896, " .	5,918,000	—	330,000
1897, " .	5,858,000	—	60,000
1898, " .	5,740,000	—	118,000

The following Statement shows, by half years, the amount of Bank Note circulation in Ireland. It will be observed that in each year of the period covered by the Table, the amount for June has been under that for the preceding December. The amount for June, this year, is £728,000 under the amount for December, 1897.

* There are Six Banks in Ireland authorized to issue Notes, the statistics of which are included in this table. The total authorized issue of Notes for these Banks is £6,354,±94.

TABLE VI. (A.)—Showing the Average Bank Note Circulation of the Six Banks of Issue in Ireland, at the undermentioned dates; compiled from Accounts published by the Registrar of Bank Returns, pursuant to the Act 8 & 9 Vic., cap. 37.*

PERIODS.	Amount.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
1888, June, .	5,758,000	—	206,000
" December, .	3,709,000	951,000	—
1889, June, .	6,515,000	—	194,000
" December, .	7,090,000	575,000	—
1890, June, .	6,634,000	—	456,000
" December, .	7,098,000	464,000	—
1891, June, .	6,165,000	—	933,000
" December, .	6,643,000	478,000	—
1892, June, .	5,965,000	—	678,000
" December, .	6,287,000	323,000	—
1893, June, .	6,088,000	—	199,000
" December, .	6,536,000	448,000	—
1894, June, .	6,007,000	—	529,000
" December, .	6,501,000	494,000	—
1895, June, .	6,248,000	—	253,000
" December, .	6,459,000	211,000	—
1896, June, .	5,918,000	—	541,000
" December, .	6,412,000	494,000	—
1897, June, .	5,858,000	—	554,000
" December, .	6,468,000	610,000	—
1898, June, .	5,740,000	—	728,000

* See note, p. 17.

The results of the analysis of the foregoing tables are :—

- 1st. That in June, 1898, as compared with the corresponding period in 1897, there was an increase of £409,000 in the Deposits and Cash Balances in the Irish Joint Stock Banks.
- 2nd. That there was a decrease of £327,000 in Deposits and Cash Balances in the Irish Joint Stock Banks in June, 1898, as compared with December, 1897, at which date the amount was the highest yet recorded.
- 3rd. That there was an increase of £552,000 in the Deposits in Savings Banks in Ireland in June, 1898, as compared with June, 1897.

- 4th. That there was an increase of £264,000 in the Deposits in Savings Banks in June, 1898, as compared with December, 1897.
- 5th. That in June, 1898, as compared with the same period of 1897, there was an increase of £338,000 in the amount of Government Funds, India Stocks, and Guaranteed Land Stock, on which dividends are payable at the Bank of Ireland, and that this increase follows a decrease of £560,000 in June of last year, as compared with June, 1896.
- 6th. That in June, 1898, there was an increase of £199,000 in the amount of Government Funds, India Stocks, and Guaranteed Land Stock, on which dividends are payable at the Bank of Ireland, as compared with the amount in December, 1897.
- 7th. That in June, 1898, there was a decrease of £118,000 in the amount of Bank Note circulation, as compared with the corresponding period of 1897.
- 8th. That there was a diminution of Bank Note circulation to the amount of £728,000 in June, 1898, as compared with December of the previous year.

5. *Railway Statistics.*

Table VII. gives the receipts of Irish Railways, week by week, for the first half of the year 1898, compared with those for 1897.

A review of the weekly traffic returns shows that in eight of the twenty-six weeks the receipts fell below the amounts for the corresponding weeks of the year 1897, and in all the other weeks the receipts exceeded those in the corresponding weeks of that year, the net result being that the total receipts for the twenty-six weeks are

in excess of those for the first half of any previous year, and show an increase of £17,507 as compared with the first six months of last year.

Table VIII. gives some of the principal statistics for Irish Railways during the first half of each of the ten years 1889-98, for comparison of the receipts in the earlier years of the decade with those shown in Table VII. for 1897-98.

TABLE VIII.—Railway Traffic Statistics, Ireland, for the first Twenty-six Weeks of each of the Years 1889-98.

(Compiled from the Weekly Returns furnished by the various Companies.)

Years.	Length of Lines open.	RECEIPTS FOR FIRST 26 WEEKS.			
		Total.	Increase or Decrease as compared with corresponding period in preceding year.		Average Receipts per Mile.
			Increase.	Decrease.	
	Miles.	£	£	£	£
1889	2,672	1,398,908	70,881	—	524
1890	2,667	1,436,036	37,728	—	539
1891	2,678	1,510,647	74,011	—	564
1892	2,688	1,454,678	—	55,969	541
1893	2,741	1,510,645	55,967	—	551
1894	2,785	1,554,019	43,374	—	558
1895	2,856	1,585,282	31,263	—	555
1896	2,975	1,609,981	24,699	—	541
1897	2,980	1,619,125	9,144	—	543
1898	2,980	1,636,632	17,507	—	549

From information kindly furnished by the Board of Trade, it appears that the Authorized Capital of Irish Railways at the end of the year 1897 was £43,664,320; of which £30,579,111 was by Shares and Stock, and £13,085,169 by Loans and Debenture Stock.

The paid-up Stock and Share Capital amounted to £27,988,101, and the Capital raised by Loans and Debenture Stock to £11,478,356, making a total of paid up and borrowed Capital amounting to £39,466,457.*

* This amount is £249,415 under that for the year 1896. The decrease is almost wholly due to the acquisition of the Enniskillen, Bundoran, and Sligo Railway by the Great Northern Railway Company (Ireland) for an amount under par.

6. *Shipping Returns.*

It appears from the following Table, IX., that the yearly average tonnage of vessels in foreign trade,* which were *entered* in the Ports of Ireland during the ten years 1887-96 was 972,105; the highest was 1,083,069 in 1896, and the lowest, 811,677 in 1888; in 1897 the tonnage entered was 1,236,721, being 153,652 over the tonnage for 1896, and 264,616, or 27·2 per cent. above the average for the ten years 1887-96. The average tonnage of vessels in the coasting trade, entered in the Ports of Ireland during the decade 1887-96, was 5,414,206; the tonnage entered in 1897, was 5,736,018, being 52,374 over that for the year 1896, and 321,812, or 5·9 per cent. more than the yearly average for the ten years 1887-96.

The average tonnage of vessels in the foreign trade* *cleared*† during the ten years 1887-96 was 375,613; the tonnage cleared† in 1897 was 572,828, being 197,215, or 52·5 per cent., over the average, and 118,435 over the tonnage for 1896, which was the highest for any of the ten years, 1887-96. The average tonnage of vessels in the coasting trade cleared during the ten years 1887-96 was 4,102,661; in 1897 the tonnage was 4,335,582, being 232,921, or 5·7 per cent. more than the average for the decade 1887-96, but 9,495 under the tonnage for 1896.

A Table (X.) showing, for each of the Ports in Ireland, the number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared during the year 1897, is given on page 23.

* Some of the vessels only partially discharged or loaded their cargoes. See Table X.

† See note (*) on page 22.

TABLE IX.—Showing for each of the Years 1885-87, the Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared in the Ports of Ireland, and the Averages for the Ten Years 1883-92.

Years.	Imports						Exports					
	Foreign Trade (with Customs and the Revenue)			Coasting Trade (with Customs only)			Foreign Trade (with Customs and the Revenue)			Coasting Trade (with Customs only)		
	Tonnage.	Imports.	Exports.	Tonnage.	Imports.	Exports.	Tonnage.	Imports.	Exports.	Tonnage.	Imports.	Exports.
1885.	964,166	96,661	—	2,006,075	95,000	—	60,071	52,337	—	2,100,000	—	54,000
1886.	952,075	—	95,000	2,006,000	—	100,000	971,000	—	95,000	2,100,000	—	95,000
1887.	952,000	104,000	—	2,111,000	95,000	—	90,000	—	95,000	2,100,000	—	95,000
1888.	1,000,000	95,000	—	2,000,000	100,000	—	90,000	—	95,000	2,100,000	—	—
1889.	999,000	—	100,000	2,000,000	100,000	—	100,000	—	100,000	2,100,000	—	—
1890.	1,000,000	100,000	—	2,000,000	100,000	—	100,000	100,000	—	2,100,000	100,000	—
1891.	999,000	—	100,000	2,000,000	—	100,000	100,000	—	100,000	2,100,000	100,000	—
1892.	1,000,000	100,000	—	2,000,000	100,000	—	100,000	100,000	—	2,100,000	100,000	—
1893.	1,000,000	100,000	—	2,000,000	100,000	—	100,000	100,000	—	2,100,000	100,000	—
1894.	1,000,000	100,000	—	2,000,000	100,000	—	100,000	100,000	—	2,100,000	100,000	—
1895.	1,000,000	100,000	—	2,000,000	100,000	—	100,000	100,000	—	2,100,000	100,000	—
Average, 1885-95.	975,000	—	—	2,000,000	—	—	100,000	—	—	2,100,000	—	—
1896.	1,000,000	Decrease compared with Average, 1885-95.	—	2,000,000	Decrease compared with Average, 1885-95.	—	100,000	Decrease compared with Average, 1885-95.	—	2,100,000	Decrease compared with Average, 1885-95.	—

* Vessels, in foreign trade (leaving the Ports of Ireland, or British Indian Possessions, have been taken as cleared) for any other Port in the United Kingdom, are not cleared.

TABLE X.—Showing the Number and Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared, in the Ports in Ireland, together with the Number and Tonnage of such Vessels that only partially Loaded or Discharged their Cargoes during the Year ended 31st December, 1897.

[illegible][illegible]

In conclusion, I have to return my thanks to the Authorities of the various Joint Stock Banks of Ireland, and of the Post Office Savings Bank Department; the Comptroller-General of the National Debt Office; the Governor of the Bank of Ireland; the Chairmen and Directors of the several Railway Companies; the Board of Trade; and the Board of Customs, for the valuable information which they so promptly afforded in connexion with the compilation of these Statistics for your Excellency.

I have the honour to remain,

Your Excellency's faithful servant,

THOMAS W. GRIMSHAW,

Registrar-General.

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE,
CHARLEMONT HOUSE,
Dublin, 30th July, 1898.

BANKING AND RAILWAY STATISTICS, IRELAND (JUNE, 1898).

TABLE VII.—COMPARATIVE RETURN OF WEEKLY RAILWAY RECEIPTS IN IRELAND FOR FIRST TWENTY-SIX WEEKS OF THE YEARS 1897-98.

No. of Week in 1897-98.	Date. Week ending (1898).	Receipts and Expend.						Mileage.		Receipts per Mile.		Accounts Received or Paid since Receipts of Year.					
		Total.		Increase in 1898 as compared with 1897.		Decrease in 1898 as compared with 1897.		1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	Total.		Increase in 1898 as compared with 1897.		Decrease in 1898 as compared with 1897.	
		1897.	1898.	Total.	Per Cent.	Total.	Per Cent.					1897.	1898.	Total.	Per Cent.	Total.	Per Cent.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1 st	January 7.	80,190	81,881	1,691	2.1	—	—	8,980	1,980	18.4	17.6	80,190	52,613	1,468	2.9	—	—
2 nd	" 14.	82,874	83,263	3,878	4.7	—	—	"	"	17.6	18.7	132,674	102,680	4,421	3.3	—	—
3 rd	" 21.	82,217	80,882	2,416	2.9	—	—	"	"	18.0	18.0	156,891	163,656	6,665	4.2	—	—
4 th	" 28.	83,774	84,226	4,500	5.4	—	—	"	"	17.8	18.6	308,748	318,710	10,000	3.2	—	—
5 th	February 6.	12,308	12,226	4,818	7.6	—	—	"	"	17.9	18.2	368,863	327,004	14,081	3.8	—	—
6 th	" 13.	84,208	84,623	3,226	3.8	—	—	"	"	18.0	18.0	313,304	333,028	19,728	6.3	—	—
7 th	" 20.	84,334	87,181	2,800	3.3	—	—	"	"	18.6	18.2	373,400	399,857	18,337	4.9	—	—
8 th	" 27.	87,320	85,786	—	—	308	0.3	"	"	18.1	18.0	428,828	417,510	11,318	2.6	—	—
9 th	March 6.	87,489	82,685	2,142	2.4	—	—	"	"	18.5	18.5	483,294	505,180	21,886	4.5	—	—
10 th	" 13.	88,768	83,681	3,485	3.9	—	—	"	"	18.7	18.5	544,780	565,873	21,093	3.9	—	—
11 th	" 20.	87,813	85,185	3,332	3.8	—	—	"	"	18.4	18.0	608,888	628,888	20,000	3.3	—	—
12 th	" 27.	88,401	85,505	1,325	1.5	—	—	"	"	18.0	18.0	688,884	688,214	38,210	5.5	—	—
13 th	April 5.	88,589	83,840	588	0.6	—	—	"	"	18.0	18.1	738,863	754,888	16,025	2.2	—	—
14 th	" 12.	88,888	83,888	3,000	3.4	—	—	"	"	18.1	18.0	788,888	816,888	28,000	3.5	—	—
15 th	" 19.	88,888	83,888	—	—	3,000	3.4	"	"	18.1	18.0	848,888	888,888	40,000	4.7	—	—
16 th	" 26.	88,888	83,888	—	—	3,000	3.4	"	"	18.1	18.0	908,888	938,888	30,000	3.3	—	—
17 th	May 4.	88,888	83,888	—	—	3,000	3.4	"	"	18.1	18.0	968,888	1,008,888	40,000	4.1	—	—
18 th	" 11.	88,888	83,888	—	—	3,000	3.4	"	"	18.1	18.0	1,028,888	1,068,888	40,000	3.9	—	—
19 th	" 18.	88,888	83,888	—	—	3,000	3.4	"	"	18.1	18.0	1,088,888	1,128,888	40,000	3.7	—	—
20 th	" 25.	88,888	83,888	—	—	3,000	3.4	"	"	18.1	18.0	1,148,888	1,188,888	40,000	3.5	—	—
21 st	June 2.	88,888	83,888	—	—	3,000	3.4	"	"	18.1	18.0	1,208,888	1,248,888	40,000	3.3	—	—
22 nd	" 9.	88,888	83,888	—	—	3,000	3.4	"	"	18.1	18.0	1,268,888	1,308,888	40,000	3.1	—	—
23 rd	" 16.	88,888	83,888	—	—	3,000	3.4	"	"	18.1	18.0	1,328,888	1,368,888	40,000	3.0	—	—
24 th	" 23.	88,888	83,888	—	—	3,000	3.4	"	"	18.1	18.0	1,388,888	1,428,888	40,000	2.9	—	—
25 th	" 30.	88,888	83,888	—	—	3,000	3.4	"	"	18.1	18.0	1,448,888	1,488,888	40,000	2.8	—	—
26 th	July 7.	88,888	83,888	—	—	3,000	3.4	"	"	18.1	18.0	1,508,888	1,548,888	40,000	2.7	—	—

* Owing to the closing of Accounts at the end of the Calendar Month, the amounts returned for the 1st, 2nd, and 18th weeks, respectively, by some of the Roadways, do not in all cases represent the receipts for same days.
 † Easter Week. ‡ Week Week.